

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on January 30, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 8-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8 and 9 are amended. Claims 1-7 and 13-14 are canceled. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that claims 8-12 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants note this statement of allowability with satisfaction, and base the above amendments on this indication. Specifically, claim 8 is rewritten in independent form, including the features of all claims from which it depends. Here, claim 8 is rewritten to incorporate all of the features recited in previously pending claims 1 and 7. It is thus respectfully submitted that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action objects to claims 6, 8 and 9 for typographical informalities. Claims 8 and 9 are amended in order to obviate this objection. The cancellation of claim 6 renders the above objection moot with respect to that claim. Withdrawal of the objection to the above enumerated claims is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2003-166036 to *Ota*. Further, the Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,454,883 to *Yoshie et al.*, or U.S. Patent No. 4,765,849 to *Roberts*, or JP 50-222450 to *Fujioka et al.* The cancellation of claims 1-7, 13 and 14 renders these rejections

moot. Withdrawal of the above noted rejections under §§102 and 103 is thus respectfully requested.

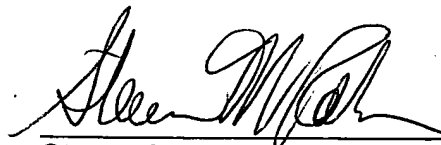
In view of the above, no permissible combination of the applied references can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 8. Claims 9-12 are also allowable, at least for their dependence on an allowable independent claim 8 as discussed above, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

SMR/ARK/pq

AMENDMENT

10/558,359